Appl. No. 10/010,031
Amdt. dated December 20, 2005
Reply to Office action of October 3, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants received the Office Action dated October 3, 2005, in which the Examiner: 1) rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sudia (U.S. Pat. No. 5,659,616); 2) rejected claims 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tycksen, Jr. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,189,097); 3) rejected claims 26 and 32-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Oorschot (U.S. Pat. No. 6,134,327); and 4) rejected claims 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Van Oorschot in view of Tycksen. With this Response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 12, 32, and 34 and canceled claims 3 and 14.

Applicants amend claim 1 to specify that the second digital signature "includes at least a portion of the first certificate." The quoted limitation originated in dependent claim 3, now canceled. With regard to previous claim 3, the Examiner stated that in Sudia "it is inherent that if authorization certificated [sic] is appended to the basic key certificate then it must be at least a portion of the certificate." Office Action page 3.

Applicants do not find an embodiment in Sudia in which two certificates, that contain digital signatures, are used in which one certificate is included in another certificate. The Examiner seems to believe that appending one certificate to another certificate is the same as one certificate including "at least a portion of" another certificate as is claimed. Applicants disagree. Appending one certificate to the end of another certificate is clearly not the same as including one certificate within another certificate. At any rate, Applicants do not read Sudia as actually disclosing appending the authorization certificate 56 to the basic certificate 55 as the Examiner seems to believe. While both certificates are shown, one certificate is not shown or described as being appended to the other. In short, Sudia does not teach or even suggest one certificate being included within another certificate. For at least these reasons, claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable over Sudia. A similar amendment was made to independent claim 12 and thus claim 12 and all claims dependent thereon are also allowable over Sudia.

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Method claim 23 requires retrieving a first signed certificate, combining the first signed certificate with other values, computing a hash, and signing said hash. As such, claim 23 requires signing a hash which itself was computed based on a signed first certificate. Applicants find no teaching or suggestion in Tycksen of signing a hash that was computed from a signed certificate. The Examiner identified Figures 1 and 7 and col. 4, line 12 (which simply refers to Figure 9), for the limitation "retrieving a first signed certificate." Those figures and cited line of text, however, do not disclose retrieving a "signed" certificate. At least for these reasons, claims 23 and associated dependent claims are allowable.

Claim 26 requires a memory that includes "a first certificate and a second certificate, said second certificate derived from said first certificate." Applicants find no teaching or suggestion in Van Oorschot of one certificate being derived from another certificate. The Examiner pointed to the bottom of col. 9 and top of col. 10 for this limitation. That passage of Van Oorschot is a portion of claims 3 and 4 and Applicants do not find the claimed limitation in claims 3 or 4 of Van Oortschot. At least for these reasons, claims 26 and associated dependent claims are allowable.
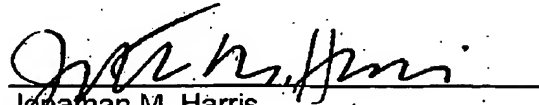
Applicants amended claims 32 and 34 to specify that "wherein said second certificate includes at least a portion of said first certificate." Applicants do not find such a teaching or suggestion in Van Oorschot. Accordingly, claims 32 and 34 and associated dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including

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fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-

Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Harris
PTO Reg. No. 44,144
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.
(713) 238-8000 (Phone)
(713) 238-8008 (Fax)
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
Legal Dept., M/S 35
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400